

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 17, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the following comments are made in response thereto. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, and 15 to 18 are pending in the instant application. Claims 6, 7, 10, and 11 are allowed. Claims 15 to 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer upon entry of this amendment. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications with claims drawn to any canceled or withdrawn subject matter contained in the application as originally filed.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The rejection of claims 15 to 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ubbink *et al.* (U.S. 2005/0153018 A1) was maintained. Without acquiescing to merits of the rejection and for the sole purpose of advancing prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 15 to 18 rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) be withdrawn.

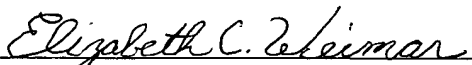
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the above remarks be made of record in the file history of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully request a telephonic or in-person interview with the undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues and to expedite the eventual allowance of the claims.

Except for issues payable under 37 C.F.R. 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310.

Dated: **November 14, 2006**
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Respectfully submitted
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